



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

CC: AHM
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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Initial Reaction of Latin American Leaders
to Presidential Bilaterals

Sixty percent of our posts have responded to the Department's circular cable requesting reports on the reactions of Latin American leaders to their bilateral meetings with President Carter. This memorandum summarizes the responses thus far received; a wrap-up report will be forwarded once all the replies have been received and collated.

The reactions have without exception been extremely favorable. The superlatives abound: glowing, elated, euphoric (Argentina, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador); extremely positive, highly satisfactory (Argentina, Ecuador, Paraguay); successful (Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay); and a great pleasure (Bahamas).

Significantly, the Latin leaders were most complimentary in their comments about the President, himself. Many spoke of how impressed they had been by President Carter's sincerity and candor (Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru) and by his knowledge and grasp of the issues (Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Peru). They appreciated the manner in which he conducted the meetings and the fact that he had introduced tough and delicate issues into the discussion (Ecuador). Peru's Morales Bermudez considered the establishment of a personal relationship with the President as his most important achievement. Costa Rica's Oduber was impressed with the attention he has been receiving and pleased that

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he is being "consulted".

Some of the leaders expressed the opinion that the meetings, and indeed their visits to Washington, would contribute to an improvement in bilateral relations (Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay) or to "new dimensions" in already good relations (Dominican Republic). Others commented on the contribution of the talks to improved U.S. relations with Latin America (Costa Rica, Ecuador - the "Spirit of Washington," Peru - a new era).

Several expressed satisfaction at having had the opportunity to discuss bilateral issues with the President and appreciated his hearing them out (Bahamas, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru, Uruguay). In some cases, the leaders are now expected to back up their optimistic reports with some concrete results (Argentina - improved relations, Bahamas - economic and commercial relations, Ecuador - military sales).

A few of the leaders viewed their visits and meetings with President Carter as having strengthened their own internal political positions (Argentina, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Peru), or as giving their nation a new "status" in the international arena (Bahamas).

Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary

cc: S/AB-Mr. Pryce

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